

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A disposable body fluid absorbent wearing article having a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region, said article comprising:

a body fluid absorbent pad including a liquid-absorbent core;

a casing covering at least a body facing side of said absorbent core and extending outwardly from a ~~circumferencial~~ circumferential edge of said core;

means for holding ~~a means to retain~~ said body fluid absorbent pad on a wearer's body;

said pad being provided, at ~~formed in~~ transversely opposite sides thereof and in said crotch region, with a pair of darts formed by folded ~~darts, by folding~~ parts of said casing, wherein ~~in a manner that~~ said ~~pair of~~ darts are opposed to each other and describe ~~in a shape of~~ circular arcs which are convex toward a center line bisecting a width of said pad;

said ~~[[pad]]~~ core including a central core section lying between said ~~pair of~~ darts and lateral core sections lying outside the respective darts, wherein ~~so that~~ said central and lateral core sections are contiguous to each other in at least one of regions which are located beyond and forward and rearward, respectively, of said ~~pair of~~ darts in a longitudinal direction of said pad; and

the circumferential edge of said core being ~~having outer peripheral edge thereof~~ surrounded by end flaps and side flaps both being contiguous to a ~~easing~~ sheet of said casing and extending outward beyond the circumferential ~~outer peripheral~~ edge of said core;

wherein

said side flaps extending outward beyond transversely opposite side edges of said core are folded back toward a body facing ~~the inner~~ surface of said pad and longitudinally opposite end

regions of ~~respective~~ said side flaps are bonded to said ~~[[inner]]~~ body facing surface so that pockets opening inwardly of said pad are formed between respective said side flaps and respective said lateral core sections; and

said side flaps being folded back toward ~~[[a]]~~ the body facing surface of said pad respectively have inner side edge regions which are provided, in parallel to said center line, with elastic members secured under tension to said inner side edge regions.

2. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said casing comprises at least a liquid-permeable topsheet defining ~~[[a]]~~ the body facing surface of said absorbent pad.

3. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said casing comprises a liquid-permeable topsheet and a liquid-impermeable backsheet, and ~~between which~~ said core is disposed between said topsheet and backsheet.

4. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said central core section has a width increasing gradually ~~enlarged~~ from the region in which said central and lateral core sections become contiguous to each other toward one of ~~[[said]]~~ front and rear ~~[[end]]~~ ends of said core.

5. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the inner side edge regions of said side flaps, which are folded back toward the body facing surface of said pad, lie respectively in the vicinity of ~~apices~~ innermost points of the ~~darts in a shape of~~ circular arcs ~~toward said center line~~.

6. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said side flaps, which are folded back toward the body facing surface of said pad, are joined, in middle at

~~positions in intermediate~~ regions between said longitudinally opposite end regions, to body facing ~~[[inner]] surfaces of the regions lying outside respective said darts~~ lateral core sections.

7. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein at least ~~[[said]]~~ front and rear regions of said absorbent pad ~~[[is]]~~ are joined integrally with said means.

8. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said means ~~include wearing article is of~~ a pants-type cover formed of a laminated sheet composed of a liquid-impervious plastic film and a nonwoven fabric.

9. **(new)** A disposable body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:
a body fluid absorbent pad which includes a liquid-absorbent core and a sheet covering at least a surface of said absorbent core, said pad having a front region, a rear region and a crotch region extending in a longitudinal direction of said pad between said front and rear regions; and
a cover for holding said pad on a wearer's body;
wherein
said pad is provided, at transversely opposite sides thereof and in said crotch region, with a pair of darts formed at least by said sheet;
said core includes, in the crotch region, a central core section lying between said darts and lateral core sections each being separated from the central core section by one of said darts; and
said central and lateral core sections are continuous to each other in at least one of the front and rear regions of said pad.

10. **(new)** The article of claim 9, wherein said darts extend along two lines extending longitudinally of said pad, said lines being spaced apart from each other by a distance increasing from a minimum at a longitudinally middle point thereof to a maximum at longitudinally opposite ends thereof.

11. **(new)** The article of claim 10, further comprising side flaps which extend outward beyond transversely opposite side edges of said core, wherein

said side flaps are folded back toward an upper surface of said pad and have front and rear longitudinally opposite end portions being joined to the upper surface of said pad so that a pair of pockets opening inwardly of said pad are formed between respective said side flaps and respective said lateral core sections; and

said side flaps, which are folded back toward the upper surface of said pad, are provided along inner side edge portions thereof with elastic members secured under extension to said inner side edge portions.

12. **(new)** The article of claim 10, wherein said darts describe circular arcs convex toward a longitudinal center line of said pad.

13. **(new)** The article of claim 9, wherein said sheet is a liquid-permeable topsheet, said pad further comprises a liquid-impermeable backsheet, and said core is disposed between said topsheet and backsheet.

14. **(new)** The article of claim 9, wherein said central core section has a width increasing gradually from a longitudinally middle zone of said crotch region toward the region in which said central and lateral core sections become contiguous to each other.

15. **(new)** The article of claim 11, wherein the inner side edge regions of said side flaps, which are folded back toward the upper surface of said pad, lie respectively in the vicinity of apices of said darts.

16. **(new)** The article of claim 11, wherein said side flaps, which are folded back

toward the upper surface of said pad, are joined, in middle regions between said longitudinally opposite end regions, to the upper surface of said pad in regions above the respective lateral core sections.

17. **(new)** The article of claim 9, wherein at least one of said front and rear regions of said pad is joined to said cover.

18. **(new)** The article of claim 9, wherein said cover is a pants-type cover formed of a laminated sheet comprising a liquid-impervious plastic film and a nonwoven fabric.

19. **(new)** A disposable body fluid absorbent pad, comprising a liquid-absorbent core and a sheet covering at least a surface of said absorbent core, said pad having a front region, a rear region and a crotch region extending in a longitudinal direction of said pad between said front and rear regions, wherein

said pad is provided, at transversely opposite sides thereof and in said crotch region, with a pair of darts formed at least by said sheet;

said core includes, in the crotch region, a central core section lying between said darts and lateral core sections each being separated from the central core section by one of said darts; and

said central and lateral core sections are continuous to each other in at least one of the front and rear regions of said pad.

20. **(new)** The pad of claim 19, wherein said darts extend along two lines extending longitudinally of said pad, said lines being spaced apart from each other by a distance increasing from a minimum at a longitudinally middle point thereof to a maximum at longitudinally opposite ends thereof.

21. (new) The pad of claim 19, further comprising side flaps which extend outward beyond transversely opposite side edges of said core, wherein

said side flaps are folded back toward an upper surface of said pad and have front and rear longitudinally opposite end portions being joined to the upper surface of said pad so that a pair of pockets opening inwardly of said pad are formed between respective said side flaps and respective said lateral core sections; and

said side flaps, which are folded back toward the upper surface of said pad, are provided along inner side edge portions thereof with elastic members secured under extension to said inner side edge portions.

22. (new) The pad of claim 21, wherein said side flaps, which are folded back toward the upper surface of said pad, are joined, in middle regions between said longitudinally opposite end regions, to the upper surface of said pad in regions above the respective lateral core sections.